

**CALIFORNIA BAY AREA AERIAL SURVEY
PRESS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE BAY AREA

Starting on August 27, 2012, a helicopter may be seen flying at a low-level altitude over portions of San Francisco, Pacifica, and Oakland, California. The helicopter will be taking measurements of naturally-occurring background radiation.

The flyovers are a part of a joint research project between the Department of Homeland Security's Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) and the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) to assess natural background radiation levels. The survey will cover approximately 69-square-miles over the selected locations. The NNSA's twin-engine Bell 412 helicopter, operated by the Remote Sensing Laboratory Aerial Measuring System in Las Vegas, Nevada, will perform the survey. The helicopter will fly a grid pattern over the locations about 300 feet above the ground. The flights will be limited to daylight hours and the survey is estimated to take about five days to complete.

The background data will be used by DNDO and NNSA to improve aerial radiation measurement capabilities used by local, state, and federal entities. The helicopter will make daily flights between August 27 and September 1, 2012.

San Francisco Media Relations Unit sfpdmediarelations@sfgov.org

Oakland Police Department Public Information Office opdmedia@oaklandnet.com

Pacifica Police Department Public Information Office realvasquezf@pacificapolice.org

NNSA Public Information Office morgan@nv.doe.gov

DNDO Public Affairs Office Keva.silversmith@dhs.gov



NNSA's twin-engine Bell 412 helicopter with specialized mission equipment mounted on the sides